

REMARKS

This is in response to a telephone communication with the Examiner on March 18, 2004, wherein he stated that an Advisory Action would be mailed shortly after March 18, 2004 because the claims in the Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed January 28, 2004 are not in condition for allowance as the arguments presented were unpersuasive.

Amendments to Claims 1, 6-9, 19, 29 and 34

Applicants respectfully submit the above amendment, for the Examiner's consideration, of claims 1, 6-9, 19, 29 and 34. Claims 1, 6-9, 19, 29 and 34 have been amended to provide further limitations of the input and output jacks with respect to the first and second side surfaces.

Response to Examiner's Comments in Anticipation of Preparation and Mailing of the Advisory Action

As noted above, Applicants traverse the Examiner's statements made by telephone on March 15, 2004, in the response to arguments after final office action. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the claimed present invention. The Examiner has repeatedly ignored missing elements and failed to properly consider the teachings of the prior art in view of Applicant's claims and remarks.

For the sake of brevity, Applicants respectfully resubmit the previously offered position regarding the teachings of the prior art references.

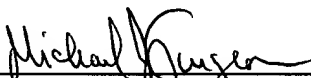
Allowable subject matter

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior art references teach or suggest the claimed present invention of claims 1, 7, 19, 26 and 29. Including previously submitted limitations, the prior art fails to teach or suggest the configuration of the input and output jacks with respect to the first and second side surfaces. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1, 7, 19, 26 and 29 contain patentable subject matter in view of the prior art of record. As such, passage of these claims to issuance is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 8-18, 20-25, 27, 28 and 30-34 contain further patentable subject matter and are allowable not merely as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Therefore, passage of these claims to issuance is respectfully requested. The Examiner has previously indicated that claims 26-28 are in condition for allowance and that claims 6, 15 and 34 are objected to and would be allowable if amended to incorporate the limitations of the respective independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 19, 2004

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